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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
SUZANNE "SUZIE" BASSI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 54TH DISTRICT

February 13, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National Railroad for its use as the primary bypass route for all the international freight traffic that it plans to transport through the greater Chicagoland area.

I am opposed to this acquisition for many reasons: (1) the increase in rail freight traffic that will gridlock all traffic in the area, (2) the life-threatening safety hazards imposed when emergency responders are delayed at grade crossings, (3) diminished air quality, (4) heightened noise pollution, and (5) the negative impact on the Suburban Transit Access Route (STAR Line) as a regional commuter rail improvement in my area.

The STAR Line, as proposed by Metra, will utilize the EJ&E corridor and provide the first national suburban-to-suburban commuter rail line -- connecting nearly 100 suburban communities in the Chicagoland area -- thus alleviating traffic congestion throughout the region.

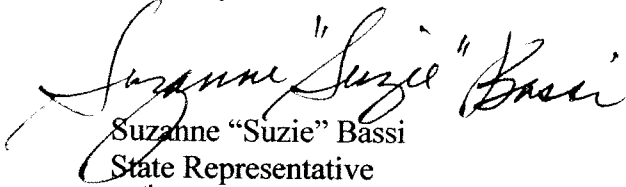
I am very concerned that CNR's operation of additional freight traffic on the EJ&E corridor will affect the ability of Metra to implement commuter rail operations when the STAR Line is established. The ability to share track or build additional track for commuter transit within the EJ&E right-of-way must be preserved and that this acquisition by CNR does not obstruct transit improvements for the Chicagoland area.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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HDR

Given the impact that this acquisition will have on the Northwest suburbs and its surrounding communities, I ask that the Board give this acquisition a thorough review to insure that the interests of my district and my constituents are protected, and I ask that you enter my comments into the record of the docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne 'Suzie' Bassi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Suzanne "Suzie" Bassi
State Representative
54th District